



OrBeat



Vol. 52

December 2002

No. 12

Happy Holidays!



The prizes have been decided for our next hamfest -- well, 2/3 of them have. The CMRG logo represents the prize they're going to donate to the raffle prize pool. Once we know the prize they're donating, we'll announce it. For now, the PPRAA is purchasing a Yaesu FT-817, the "Ultimate Backpacker," multimode portable transceiver, and a Yaesu VX-7R, the first submersible HT! These two prizes, plus the third to be provided by the CMRG, should be well worth the wait from now 'til the hamfest. Start stashing away the bucks so you can buy up the tickets!

More details about the hamfest are in this issue on page 4.

Join Us For the
PPRAA Christmas Party!



December 13, 2002
Dinner begins at 1830
Springs City Church
1250 Vondelpark Drive



(More details on page 3)

No Meeting This Month – Come to the Christmas Party instead!

Meetings Our monthly meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the Leon Young Service Center, 1521 Hancock Parkway, just north of the US 24 (Martin Luther King) Bypass. Our Annual meeting is in October. Check the web site for any changes.

Regular License Exam Sessions

Our ARRL VEC test sessions are on the 2nd Saturday of even numbered months at 0900 at the DeVry Institute annex, 3245 International Cr, just east of Memorial Park, but west of Printers Parkway. Contact Erik KGØXE for details.

Examinees need to bring (1) \$10, preferably a check or money order payable to ARRL/VE; (2) picture ID; (3) the signed original and a copy of your current amateur radio license and CSCEs you have (we keep the copies); and (4) a pen, pencil, and calculator if needed. Memory calculators will be checked.

PPRAA Web Page See it at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/>. Thanks to Lee Inman KØQED for maintaining these pages.

Get on the PPRAA E-mail

Reflector Stay on top of new or short-fused developments.

Subscribe at

[http://mailman.qth.net/
mailman/listinfo/ppraanet](http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ppraanet).

Thanks to John Wishart KCØJFH for maintaining this list.

PPRAA Simplex Net All amateurs are invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 1900 on 146.58 MHz simplex for our club net. Get the latest club and regional happenings!

Officers and Directors

President	Ben Cruise	NØLNW	n0lnw@arrl.net
Vice President	Tom McDaniel	NØNTX	n0ntx@amsat.org
Secretary	Joanie VerDuft	KCØGMI	verduftj@earthlink.net
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*Board Member	Rick Brown	KØSU	k0su@arrl.net
*Board Member	Kate Muniz	KCØEGJ	kc0egj@aol.com
*Board Member	Aaron Pelouze	KD6FLM	
Board Member	Jerry VerDuft	ADØA	verduftj@earthlink.net
Ø-Beat Editor	Rob Roller	N7LV	n7lv@ppfma.org

* Indicates this Director is in the 2nd year of a two-year term

Committee Chairs & Other Contacts

Activity	VACANT			
Auditing	Kate Muniz	KCØEGJ	683-7702	kc0egj@aol.com
Asset	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	
E-Mail Reflector	John Wishart	KCØJFH	481-2439	john.wishart@hp.com
Historian	Ron Deutsch	NKØP		nk0p@arrl.net
Interference	Bill Petty	NØNJX	532-1439	
Membership	Les Borst	KCØNC	634-3995	
Programs	Rick Brown	KØSU	531-9423	k0su@arrl.net
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Public Service	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	
Hamfest	Kate Muniz	KCØEGJ	683-7702	kc0egj@aol.com
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ARES EC	Wes Wilson	KØHBZ		
ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	
ARRL Section Mgr	Jeff Ryan	KØRM	260-6826	k0rm@arrl.net
CCARC Liaison	Moe Pierce	WBØRTF		
HamCon Chairman	Jerry VerDuft	ADØA		verduftj@earthlink.net
RACES Officer	Tony Dal Lago	KC4VMB	575-8400	kc4vmb@qsl.net

Upcoming Club Programs

Dec No program; no meeting -- Christmas Party instead!

Jan TBD



Articles for the Ø-Beat Deadline for articles or ads for the Jan issue is Dec 30. Submit articles by e-mail, US Mail, telephone or in person to the editor. Editor reserves right to edit for readability, grammar, spelling, punctuation and length.

Nonprofit Organization The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions/donations may be tax-deductible.

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We meet at the Leon Young Service Center, 1521 Hancock Pkwy

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

Club and Local News



NØCMW Al and Marie enjoy breakfast together at the VFW Hall on Veteran's Day

Christmas Party !

By VE1NOS Shelley Jones Penney

[Ed: At the November meeting, Shelley graciously stepped forward and offered to plan the Christmas party. And with only a month to spare, this was most welcomed! Thanks, Shelley! BTW, Shelley and her husband Al just moved to Colorado on a military assignment, and have just joined the club. How's that for jumping right in!]

Date: December 13, 2002

Time: Setup at 1300-1500, dinner begins at 1830

Location: Springs City Church (same as last year), 1250 Vondelpark Drive

We'll have turkeys (cooked by Clark KCØLMN and Al VO1NO) and hams cooked by Jerry ADØA, Ben NØLNW and Rob N7LV.

Drinks by Rhoda KB2BZY

Setup by Mike WV7T (we'll need more volunteers to set up, but Mike will get things started)

If your last name begins with A thru H: Bring a salad

If your last name begins with I thru N: Bring a dessert

If your last name begins with N thru Z: Bring rolls, bread, etc

BTW, feel free to bring more, if you have a favorite dish you want to share!

If you have questions or comments, call Shelley at 282 - 9184.



**Whoa!
Do not pass December!
Do not collect \$200!
Do not do
ANYTHING!
until you mail in your
2003 membership
dues!**

Unless you've already paid through to the end of 2003, all membership dues expire in December of every year. Now is the time to drop that check in the mail, along with a membership form so we can update our data base.

Ham Classes to Start Next Month

By KBØRKW Linda Hedges, Technical Instruction Committee Chair

The date for this next class will be Tuesday January 7th, 2003 and will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM. This will be for a six (6) week period winding up on Thursday, February 13th, 2003.

The location will be at the same place that they have been held for the last couple of years, which is at the Office Of Emergency Management, 305 South Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO, which is right across the street from the south end of Prospect Lake, in the rear part of the building on the basement level. Thanks to Jim Mesite KCØFIB for hosting these classes.

The cost for the classes is free, but a person can purchase the "Now Your Talking" book the first night of the classes for \$19.00. There will also be a special test session held the last night of the classes for the normal cost of \$12.00. This session is to all; you need not be a student.

You need to register by January 3rd, 2003. Contact Frank or Barb McNally at 596-8733 or Linda Hedges at 683-7828 also at kb0rkw@juno.com.

If you have a chance, swing by one or two of the classes to give Frank support and help out if you can.

Swapfest Planning Kicked-Off!

By KCØEGJ Kate Muniz, Hamfest Chair

Planning for the 2003 PPRAA Swapfest Extravaganza has started! We need your help, so join us for the next planning meetings coming up on



December 7 and January 11, at 9 am, at the CSPD Falcon substation, 7850 Goddard St.

We've confirmed June 14 at Lewis-Palmer High School for the hamfest. Prizes will include a Yaesu FT-817 and VX-1R provided by the PPRAA. The Cheyenne Mtn Repeater Group will also be donating a raffle prize this year. The prize hasn't been officially identified yet, so we'll announce that next month. We hope to be selling raffle tickets by the Christmas party, but no guarantees! Stay tuned to the reflector and the PPRAA Simplex Net for the latest details.

PPRAANet (aka "The Reflector")

By John Wishart KCØJFH, Reflector Administrator

This is an e-mail reflector devoted to the activities of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association. It is used primarily to disseminate late breaking news or general information about the organization, place limited personal "for sale" notices, etc.

What's an e-mail reflector? It's a service that forwards mail to a list of e-mail addresses. By joining, you're essentially adding your e-mail address to the mailing list. All e-mail sent to a special address (ppraanet@mailman.qth.net) is sent to everyone on the list. The list is normally limited to members of the PPRAA, but others (including those PPRAA members not subscribed to the reflector) may post messages with the approval of the list administrator.

You may subscribe to PPRAANet by visiting the following link:

<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ppraanet>.

This link will also allow you to change your subscription (set options like digest and delivery modes), get a reminder of your password, or unsubscribe from PPRAANet). This is a closed list, which means your new subscription request will be held for approval. You will be notified of the administrator's decision by e-mail. This is also a hidden list, which means that the list of members is available only to the list administrator. You also have the option of receiving the messages batched in a daily digest, although the message volume of this list is not normally high enough to warrant this.

To post a message to all the list members, send e-mail to ppraanet@mailman.qth.net.

Please contact the list administrator (me) at john.wishart@hp.com if you have questions about or problems with the e-mail list.

Mailman FAQ (extracted from

<http://mailman.qth.net/faq.htm>)

Below are Frequently Asked Questions about using the Mailman mailing list software that we use here at qth.net. Please take a moment and go through them and see if they address any problem you may be having before requesting help. Note that almost everything list members need to do can be accomplished using the List Options.

(<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/ppraanet>) web page.

Q - I lost/forgot my password. What now?

A - Mailman sends out a monthly reminder with your subscription information including the List Options page URL and your passwords. You can also have your password mailed to you using the List Options page.

Q - I have a new email address. How can I change my subscription address?

A - Mailman doesn't have a function to change e-mail addresses. You must unsubscribe the old address and re-subscribe with your new address. Yes, this is a pain, but that's how it has to be done.

Q - Why have I stopped receiving messages from the list?

A - Mailman tracks bouncing mail. If your mail bounces because your ISP is having problems or your mail box is full, you'll be automatically unsubscribed. If you are not going to be collecting your mail for some time you should put mail from the list on hold to prevent this. You can do this on the List Options page. People that continue to have mail delivery problems should find another e-mail service that is reliable.

Q - I get 2 of each post to the mailing list. Why?

A - You probably subscribed twice with different addresses. Mailman won't allow duplicate subscriptions with the same address. Pay attention to the monthly password reminder message as it will show you the addresses you are subscribed under.

Q - Can I receive a digest instead of individual messages?

A - Yes. You can subscribe to the digest instead of your subscription for individual posts, on the List Options page. If you want to get the digest and individual posts from the same list, you will have to subscribe twice (once for the digest and once for individual posts) with different addresses.

Q - I get mail from the list, but my posts are rejected as a non-member. Why?

A - The address you post from **must** be the one subscribed. Many people subscribe using a forwarding account like W1AW@ARRL.NET but send their mail from their real account, W1AW@ATT.NET. Since the ATT address is not subscribed to the list, it **will** be rejected. To fix this problem you can post from the subscribed address, subscribe an address you can send mail from, or use the method below in the question "How can I post from 2 or more addresses".

Q - How can I post from 2 or more addresses to a "members-only" list?

A - Most of our lists are restricted to "members-only", i.e., if you post from an address that's not subscribed, the message is held for approval. Members-only lists are increasingly popular because they reduce the amount of spam on the list. The problem then is for people who want to post to the list from two or more addresses, but only want one of those addresses to receive list postings. e.g., say I sometimes post to the list from barry@dom1.ain and sometimes as warsaw@dom2.ain. I'd like both postings to be treated as coming from a list member, but I don't want duplicates of list messages; I only want barry@dom1.ain to get the messages. The solution for is to actually subscribe both addresses to the list, but to disable delivery from all but one of the addresses. So in the above example, I'd subscribe barry@dom1.ain and warsaw@dom2.ain, but I would disable delivery to warsaw@dom2.ain.

You can disable delivery to an address by going to the [List Options](#) page for that address and setting "Mail delivery" to "disabled".

Historical Dits and Bits

By NKØP Ron Deutsch, Historian

20 Years Ago This Month:

- ☒ Lead article in *Ø-Beat* was about the 'new' MC-6808 microprocessor running at a blazing 2MHz!
- ☒ Our monthly meetings were at the First United Methodist Church at Nevada & Boulder Sts.
- ☒ Club dues were \$12 per year.

10 Years Ago This Month:

- ☒ Meeting and Christmas party were at the Elks Club.
- ☒ The Cadet Radio Club contacted the Space Shuttle Endeavor from the USAFA.
- ☒ Club Treasury was \$1,101.80 from all sources.

If you have any information on our club activities or any information on our members prior to 1970 please contact me or any club officer. We'd like to scan your

information or take your memories and put them in writing.

I'm still looking for the club History records. Last known person to have them is Roger Eslik NØVR. Anyone knowing his whereabouts please contact me.

Membership Report

By KCØNC Les Borst, Membership Chair

ALL MEMBERS ARE CURRENT!

Total Number of Members

196

Board Meeting Minutes

By KCØGMI Joanie VerDuft, Secretary



President Ben Cruise NØLNW called the meeting to order at 7pm. Ben hosted the meeting at his house. In attendance were Kate Muniz KCØEGJ, Rick Brown KØSU, Aaron Pelouze KD6FLM, Rob Roller N7LV,

Bob Wogaman KBØB, Tom McDaniel NØNTX, Jerry VerDuft, ADØA and Joanie VerDuft KCØGMI. The Board Meeting minutes for October were approved. Kate brought up that the swapfest planning is going well and the date will be June 14, 2003. The Cheyenne Mountain Repeater Group is donating a major prize to the swapfest. Rick Brown discussed the PPRAA Field Day and that we need to find a new site; the Air Force Academy site was suggested. Ben will talk to KØHBZ as to the Mountain Amateur Radio Club's desire to participate with us next year if we use the Air Force Academy site, and discuss alternatives. The new club call that WV7T is applying for was discussed and it was noted that this would be in addition to the existing club call of WAØVTU. (It was noted that there is no limit on the number of calls that a club may have but that each one must be well justified.) Ben requested Rob Roller to put in the December *Ø-Beat* a reminder for everyone to pay their club dues. Tom McDaniel will have tickets at the Christmas Dinner for a drawing for a free club membership and maybe some other surprises. Shelley VE1NOS is planning our Christmas dinner. Jerry VerDuft suggested we contact Carol Wilson to see if she will be able to play some sing-a-long Christmas music at the Dinner meeting; Ben will enquire. Jerry noted that WV7T cannot conduct any special classes next year but Rob Roller has expressed an interest in conducting General level classes next summer. Jerry advised the HAMCON Colorado website is now up and running at www.hamconcolorado.org, and people will eventually be able to register for the Convention on line. Ben wants to have a PPRAA display table at the convention especially since it is free to sponsoring clubs. He



wants to have someone to man it from the hours of 9am -6pm Saturday, and 9am-11:30am Sunday. Please see Ben on what hours may be good for you! Joanie VerDuft advised that she has updated the ARRL Affiliated Clubs website with the current PPRAA officer information. Rick Brown discussed future programs; Kate suggested the Elmers Day be staged during next year's swapfest and the Board agreed that this was a good idea. Rick volunteered to have the December Board meeting at his QTH. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.
Respectfully submitted by Joanie VerDuft KCØGMI

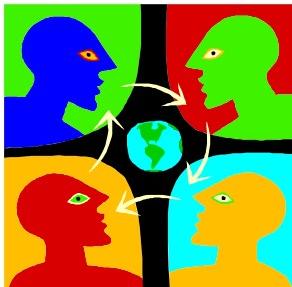
General Meeting Minutes

By KCØGMI Joanie VerDuft, Secretary

November 13, 2002.

Meeting called to order at 7 pm by President, NØLNW, followed by introductions around the room. Minutes of last meeting were approved. KBØB provided the treasurers report.

KCØEGJ gave a report on the 2003 hamfest planning: Hamfest Committee meetings will alternate between the 1st and 2nd Saturday of each month, beginning the 1st Saturday in Dec at Falcon PD Substation. The tentative date for the hamfest is June 14, 2003 and the site again to be the Lewis - Palmer HS. The main raffle prize will be the option of a Yaesu FT-817 or \$500 cash. Kate made a motion to appropriate up to \$1000 for swapfest prizes, seconded by KØSU, passed. N7LV moved to appropriate up to \$700 for use of the Lewis-Palmer HS facility for the swapfest, seconded by KCØEGJ, passed. Finally, Kate noted the Boy Scouts from Larkspur will be providing the food/snacks at the swapfest as a fund raising event for their troop. KØTER advised that he still needs an incoming or outgoing club officer to assist him with the club inventory; Ron, NKØP volunteered to assist. KCØJFH advised that he is investigating e-mail reflector problems. It was suggested that John provide a "dos and don'ts" guide to us for using the reflector and place on the PPRAA website. Our historian, NKØP said the history file is missing and thinks that NØVR may have it? Ron also mentioned a trivia question: Ten years ago in October the club held an old timer's night with a large display of old ham gear. What was the oldest piece of gear on display? Answer at next club meeting! KCØNC encouraged membership renewals which are due by the end of Dec. KØSU requested anyone having ideas for future club programs to contact him. NØLNW mentioned a board discussion about having a future "Elmers Night" designed for displaying amateur radio to



new hams and asked for inputs. KØTER noted the Colorado Springs Festival of Lights in December where we will be providing support communications. NØNTX announced that satellite GO -32 is no longer operational (no uplink), and RS -12/13 which was a transition for AO-40, has died. KØSU announced that he was one of few authorized to validate QSL cards for the various ARRL operating awards; NØLNW suggested he set up for card checking at next year's swapfest. KØHBZ advised us of Skywarn Recognition Day being held Dec 6 -7 at NWS in Pueblo - a special operating event involving as many as 92 NWS offices across the country including Hawaii. All are invited to come down and operate by contacting K4ARM who is managing the schedule. Also needed are volunteers to come early on Friday to help with station setup as well as station teardown Saturday pm. (The operating event will run from 5pm Friday, Dec 6th until 5pm Saturday, Dec 7th.) A special event call sign of WXØPUB has been applied for. Tours of the NWS-Pueblo facility will also be arranged. ADØA noted that the club needed more help in supporting the 2003 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention and yielded to KØSU who is leading the Exhibitors/Prizes Committee. Rick requested assistance in contacting vendors; N7LV suggested a list of support needed be prepared by Rick and provided to club members. NØLNW announced that the club Christmas Dinner will be held on Friday, Dec 13th at the Springs Community Church (the same location as year) featuring a potluck affair with the club furnishing meat, soft drinks, etc. Ben asked for a volunteer to head this up and Shelley VE1NOS graciously volunteered. Christmas dinner discussion ensued and Shelley announced that for potluck items, those with last names beginning in A - H should bring a salad, I - N a dessert, and O - Z rolls. KBØPPM announced that the JOTA event went well and thanked everyone who supported it. Dan noted that next year's JOTA will emphasize an "Operation Rescue" scenario and requested volunteers to help organize it. WBØRTF announced the Lunch Bunch meeting at Country Buffet in Citadel Crossing on Nov 15th at 1130. KØTER noted the pictures of PPRAA club members in the December issue of QST (ref pages 76 & 78). WV7T mentioned his participation in November SS CW Contest and his involvement in the KØUSN special event station on Dec 7th. Mike also mentioned that Russ and Rosie Calaway (WAØMNL & KBØFNH) would appreciate a visit or phone call; Moe WBØRTF has their contact information. NØLNW, the recipient of last month's Hammy Award, presented it to KØSU for his past service as club President. KBØWFM advised that he would be supporting the Salvation Army with ringing bells for holiday donations at Austin Bluffs and

Academy. The meeting was recessed for break followed by the raffle drawing. Ben then introduced the speaker, Al Penney, VO1NO who gave an excellent talk on electronic warfare during World War II titled "Battle of the Beams". Al's talk was so great that the club asked him to return at a future time for more of it as our time limit at the meeting facility restricted his full presentation. NØLNW announced the Nov Board Meeting to be held at his QTH and adjourned the meeting at 2110 hours. *Respectfully submitted by Jerry VerDuft ADØA for KCØGMI who was ill.*

CO Council of Amateur Radio Clubs Report

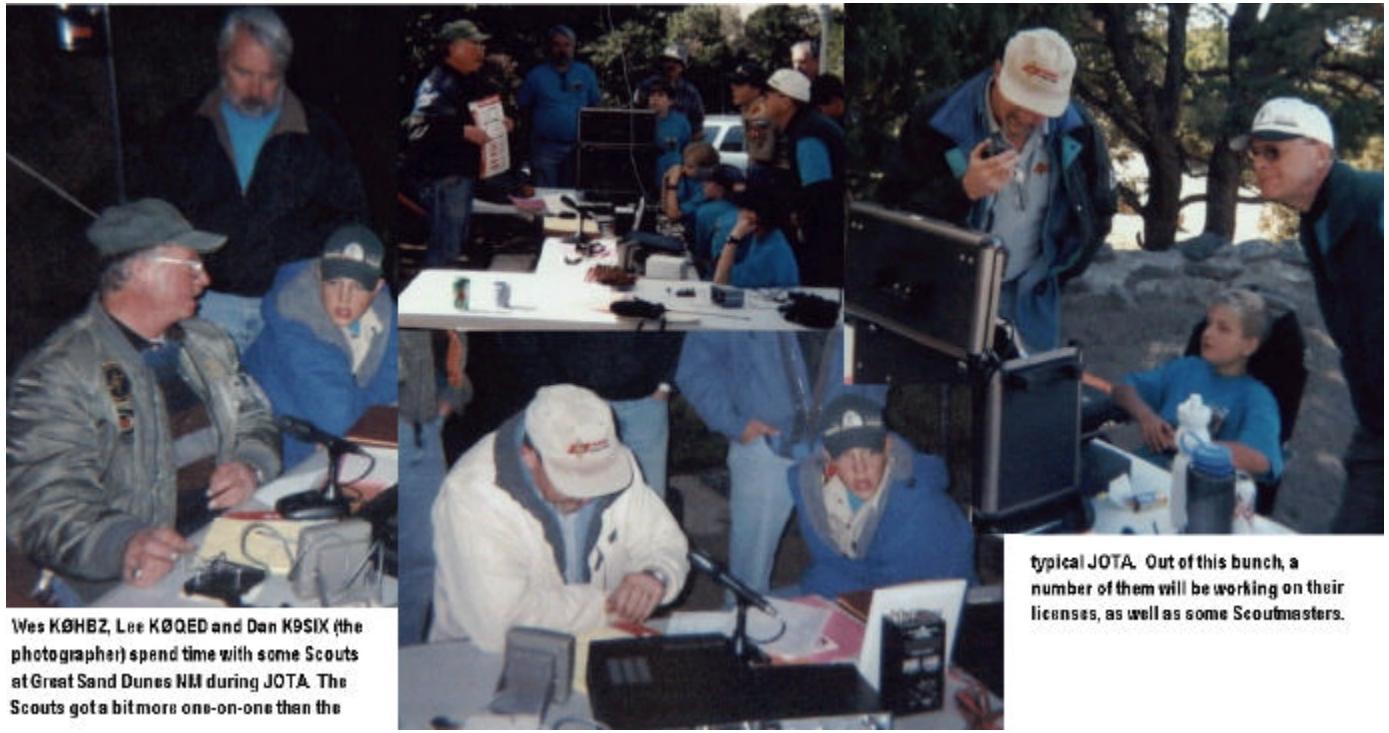
By KCØGMI Joanie VerDuft

[Note: Joanie VerDuft KCØGMI attended the meeting on behalf of Moe WBØRTF. Moe is the PPRAA liaison to the CCARC.]

Summary of CCARC meeting of October 5, 2002

Chairman Bud Saum KØGS opened the meeting around 1330 with introductions around the room. This was followed by the Treasurer and Secretary's report. Ron Klein WØOSK reported on the Legislative Committee activities and that Colorado Congressman Bob Schaffer had signed onto the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection legislation proposal. He also reported that Mark Baker KGØPA was doing a good job visiting various clubs with his CC&R's (PRB-1 for Colorado) presentation. The Legislative Committee is still in need of a Chairman

but is working on better legislative wording for the "reasonable accommodation" (of amateur radio antennas) clause of the proposed legislation. Jerry VerDuft ADØA then gave a presentation on the planning progress of the 2003 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention and thanked CCARC for being a seed money sponsor. Walt Stinson WØCP gave a short report on current ARRL activities followed by a discussion on CCARC becoming an ARRL affiliated organization. This requires all CCARC member organizations having at least 51% of their members as ARRL members and having their club officer information current with the ARRL data base. Some of the CCARC member clubs did not have current data with ARRL so all clubs were asked to make sure they have done so. There was extensive discussion on repeater coordination issues. Old business involved approval of a revision to the Constitution to reflect election of the Executive Committee from the pool of member clubs' members vs "from the pool of delegates." New business involved various proposed amendments to the CCARC Constitution involving dissolution, dispute resolution, applicable statutes, and no employees, copies of which were distributed for review prior to the next meeting. It was resolved that the next meeting would be in Silverthorne CO next April.



Public Service & Emergency Communications

The PPRAA is an ARRL Special Services Club, but it is not an emergency services club itself. The PPRAA supports all amateur radio involvement in public service and emergency communications in any way it can, including reporting activities happening in the region. These columns are based on available knowledge of the editor, and the opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions of RACES, ARES, Skywarn or any other organization, or their leadership. Logos used with permission.

RACES



<http://www.qsl.net/epcraces/>

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1930 on the 146.76 MHz CMRG repeater

Tony Dal Lago KC4VMB, RACES Officer

No training this month, but we'll resume again in January with election of officers. Think about volunteering for one of these positions! Thanks to Skee Hipszky NØPRY for the excellent Winter Preparedness presentation. Jim Mesite is asking all RACES members to complete a new mini-application due to the newly elected sheriff. John Anderson is out due to term limits; Terry Makita is the new sheriff. Packet station is in its final location and operating on 145.09 under the callsign KCØMWQ. Please connect and provide a signal report. We'll be organizing a antenna work party soon to check out all antennas.

ARES



<http://www.qsl.net/ppares/>

VHF Net Tuesdays at 1900 on the 146.97 MHz PPFMA repeater

Wes Wilson KØHBZ, EC

Things are fairly quiet as the year winds down. The ARES Packet Cluster has been moved to new location at the QTH of N7LV. It's still on 144.93 - connect to ARES14. For weather info, connect to EMWX14 on the same frequency to get the EMWIN data (maintained by N4TGO). Festival of Lights on Dec 7 is the last public service event of the year. If you've had any changes in availability or capabilities, be sure to update your info via the web registration page. Have a safe and happy holiday, and a prosperous New Year.

DX Contesting For November

By WV7T Mike Anderson

ARRL 160-Meter Contest

December 6 2200Z to December 8 1600Z

Six Meter CW-Phone

December 6 2300Z to December 9 0300Z

<http://www.6mt.com/contest.htm>

TARA RTTY Sprint

December 7 1800Z to December 8 0200Z

<http://www.geocities.com/mdxal/deathmatch.html>

TOPS Activity Contest 80m (CW)

December 7 1800 to December 8 1800Z

ARRL 10-Meter Contest

December 14 0000Z to December 15 2400

Great Colorado Snowshoe Run (CW)

December 15 0200Z -0400Z

<http://www.mtechnologies.com/cqc/contests/snow2002.htm>

DPX (Digital Prefix) Contest

December 14 0000Z -2400Z

http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/070_dpx.html

OK DX RTTY Contest

December 21 0000Z -2400Z

<http://www.crk.cz/eng/DXCONTE.HTM>

AGB Activity Party--CW/phone

<http://www.qsl.net/euleu/>

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party

December 21 0000 to January 5 2003

<http://www.arlhs.com/xmas-guide.html>

RAC Winter Contest--CW/Phone

December 28 0000Z -2359Z

<http://www.rac.ca/CANWIN.htm>

QRP Contest - CW

December 28 1500Z to December 29 1500Z

80-20m

ARRL Straight Key Night

31 Dec - 1 Jan 2003

PPRAA Has Contesting Callsign

By WV7T Mike Anderson

The contesting callsign of AFØS is on the air! This call joins the existing callsign of WAØVTU as the club callsigns.

Keeping It All Straight

By N7LV Rob Roller

The last day of the year is Straight Key Night, so what better time to have an article on straight keys.

SKN begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, which is 5 pm local time on December 31. It runs for 24 hours. The object is to just get out and enjoy some good ol' fashioned CW operating using a straight key! No speed records necessary. You also get to vote on the best fist you heard, and also on the most interesting QSO you heard or participate in. Think you can handle it?

There are other times throughout the year you can get on CW and operate with a straight key (or any other key, for that matter.) There are CW contests, sprints, Field Day, for example. As you probably know from your license studies way back when, the lower part of most bands is where you'll find the CW operators. And there are even specific frequencies where you can search for QRP operators. Here's a few - thanks to Steve Bates NØMHQ for passing these along:

Band	CW	SSB	Novice
160	1810, 1825	1825, 1910	
80	3560	3985	3710
40	7040	7285	7110
30	10106, 10116		
20	14060	14285	
17	18080	18130	
15	21060	21385	21110
12	24910	24950	
10	28060	28385	28110
6	50060	50885	

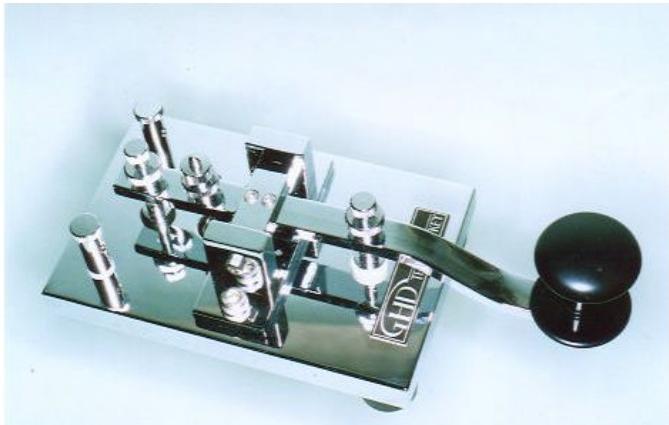
Locally, the Colorado Repeater Association hosts a QRP net on their 147.225/145.16 repeaters at 8 pm on Monday nights. Check it out if you want to learn more about QRP. Or visit the Colorado QRP Club's web page at www.cqc.org.



What is a straight key? Basically, it's simply a switch to open and close an electrical circuit, but the switch is designed for rapid opening and closing by the human hand. The knob on the end of the lever is designed for a comfortable feel when you hold it. There are springs and adjustments you can make to change the force required

to open the circuit when you tap the key. You adjust it to your own liking.

You used to be able to buy a key at Radio Shack for about \$5 to \$10 but I haven't seen a key at Radio Shack for a while now. Fancier keys come in chrome or gold plating, and can cost up into the several hundred dollars.



If you find that straight keys aren't for you, there are always the newer contraptions that help to form your dits and dahs better and evenly. Semiautomatic keyers, or bugs, iambic keys, keys with single paddles or dual paddles, paddles with electronic keyers. Lots of ways to go. Except for Straight Key Night. Gotta use a straight key!

The world of QRPs and those that take small, lightweight radios with them on hikes, also need a small, easy-to-use key for their rigs. Some of the smallest ones are barely an inch square, and look so delicate you'd hate to have it get crushed in your backpack.

For the backpacker QRPer that takes the lightest, lowest power rigs along for a walk, there are probably keys that are as small as an inch square!

Don't believe me? Check out this MK-22 Minikey below, made by Whiterook. I suspect you can use this key in your pocket. It's only 2" x 2". Keep in mind the difference between a key and a keyer. A key is the switch that you open and close. The keyer, these days, is



an electronic circuit that's connected to the KEY jack on your transceiver, that controls the radio, switching it in and out of XMIT. In the old days, there were no keyers. You just plugged your key into the radio and started sending. You can still do that today, of course. That would be true straight key operation. These days, you plug your paddles into a keyer, and the keyer forms the dits and dahs to the right spacing and then opens and closes the circuit for your radio to switch in and out of XMIT.



Vibrokeyers: What are they? Well, I've never used one. I've only used straight keys and now I have an Bencher paddle and an iambic keyer. Does anyone want to clue me in on how a Vibroplex key, or a bug, works? I think it's a mechanical way to get the dits and dahs formed for a better fist. Iambic? What does that word mean? According to the on-line Webster's Dictionary, iambic means "*a metrical foot consisting of one short syllable followed by one long syllable or of one unstressed syllable followed by one stressed syllable*". Long, short, stressed, unstressed. I guess all it took was the long and short definition to apply it to Morse code. Metrical foot? Well, I'm not going to keep defining terms here. You look it up this time!

Hollingsworth Does About Face on 146.52 Pt 2

By N7LV Rob Roller

Last month I asked for comments on my article with the same title. Jeff Ryan KØRM responded with the following:

"In last month's Ø-Beat, Rob spoke of the confusion surrounding FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth's reversal of his Advisory Notice reprimanding hams for having ragchews on 146.52. My opinion follows. Band Plans have always been voluntary. The FCC is on record as stating "Band Plans minimize the necessity for Commission intervention in Amateur operations and the use of Commission

resources to resolve Amateur interference problems. When such plans are not followed and harmful interference results, we expect very substantial justification to be provided, and we expect that justification to be consistent with Section 97.101." (FCC Enforcement Letter, October, 2000). So while the FCC has indicated that following Band Plans are 'Good Amateur Practice' they have stopped short of giving Band Plans the force of law. Furthermore, when the ARRL petitioned the FCC to make Band Plans compulsory, the Commission refused. When Riley issued his Advisory Notice to several hams admonishing them for ragchewing on 146.52, he essentially moved Band Plans from voluntary to compulsory. By stating in his original Notice that hams should not ragchew on the National Simplex Calling Frequency, with the stroke of a pen he indicated that failure to follow Band Plans would subject hams to FCC enforcement action. Well, there's a problem. As broad and sweeping as his authority is, he doesn't have the authority to place new regulations into effect without Commission action. There is no interpretation of FCC rules that could lead to an enforcement action due to act of ragchewing on 146.52. Riley's job is to enforce existing rules, not make up new ones. In my opinion, recognizing the error of his ways, he immediately rescinded the previously issued Advisory Notice. This reversal was not an indictment of Band Plans. So, is it Good Amateur Practice to ragchew on 146.52? What do you think?"

Juno and Hotmail ISPs Deny Service to ARRL.net Subscribers

By N7LV Rob Roller

At press time, Hotmail has restored service, but no word yet on whether or not Juno will follow suit. This was apparently a way to deal with the ever-growing problem of e-mail spam. The net effect is that people who receive mail at Juno or Hotmail will not get e-mails from individuals that use their arrl.net alias as the "reply-to" in sent messages. This does not affect messages sent TO people via their arrl.net alias. Whether the problem is really with the ARRL, as some imply, or with the ISPs, is unknown. But the ARRL is working to get the issue resolved. Hopefully they will all be working by the time your read this.

Ham Etc News Briefs

?? According to ARRL VEC manager Bart Jahnke W9JJ, the cost of an amateur radio license exam will rise from \$10 to \$12 beginning January 1. Tests at the end of the PPRAA ham class in Feb will cost \$12.

Pikes Peak Region Ham Radio Event Calendar

December 2002 / January 2003 -- Please see Page 2 for Points of Contact

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 COLCON Xmas Party	6 Skywarn Recognition Day	7 Hamfest Planning Mtg Skywarn Recognition Day MARC Xmas Party ARESCO EC Mtg PSE: Festival of Lights
8	9	10	11 NO PPRAA Mtg	12	13 NO Lunch Bunch PPRAA Xmas Party	14 PPRAA VE Test NO HamCon Mtg
15	16 PPRAA Board Mtg	17	18 NO MARC Mtg	19 NO EPCRACES Mtg	20	21
22	23 ZB Deadline	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 Straight Key Nite New Years Day	2	3	4 MARC VE Test
5	6	7 PPRAA Ham Class Begins	8 PPRAA Mtg	9 PPRAA Ham Class	10 Lunch Bunch	11 HamCon Mtg
12	13 PPRAA Board Mtg	14 PPRAA Ham Class	15 MARC Mtg	16 EPCRACES Mtg PPRAA Ham Class	17	18
19	20	21 PPRAA Ham Class	22	23 PPRAA Ham Class	24	25
26	27 ZB Deadline	28 PPRAA Ham Class	29	30 PPRAA Ham Class	31	

Questions about any event on this calendar? Something missing? Try our web page, or contact a Board Member!

Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521

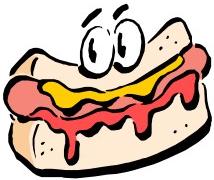
Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	In which activities would you like to participate?
Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Day <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrations <input type="checkbox"/> Nets or round tables <input type="checkbox"/> Organize activities <input type="checkbox"/> Teach ham classes	
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Member \$15: <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$18: <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 \$10: <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 Family \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Associate \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Ø-Beat Only \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Donation to Club: \$_____	
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Total Enclosed:	
Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____	MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PPRAA"	
Mbr of ARRL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No E-mail: _____		
Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:		
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____		
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____		
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____		
Please indicate how you'd like your Ø-Beat delivered: <input type="checkbox"/> Standard hardcopy via U.S. Mail (Defaults to standard hard copy in the event that NO check boxes are checked) <input type="checkbox"/> As a PDF file attachment via e-mail, to help save a few bucks <input type="checkbox"/> I'll save the club a few bucks and download it from the Web!		
Circle your interests <input type="checkbox"/> HF / V/UHF / FM / SSB / Digital / DX / Contests / Technical / Hardw are / Other _____		
New and renewing members must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer. Please Type or Print Clearly!		

ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND RENEWALS WILL BE PRORATED TO EXPIRE IN DECEMBER!!



RadioA ctivities!

Lunch Bunch



The **Lunch Bunch** for December is cancelled due to the PPRAA Christmas party being on the same date. Join us next month! (*Always the Friday following the club meeting.*) Call Moe WBØRTF with any questions!!

Hamfest Horizon & More

Feb 16, 2003: Aurora Repeater Assn, Brighton. Contact Wayne Heinen NØPOH 303-699-6335, n0poh@arrl.net. www.qsl.net/n0ara/

May 30 – Jun 1, 2003: Rocky Mountain Division Convention (HamCon), Estes Park. Visit the web site at <http://www.hamconcolorado.org> Contact Jerry VerDuff ADØA, 719-634-8066, ad0a@arrl.net.

Jun 14, 2003: PPRAA Hamfest, Lewis-Palmer High School, Monument. VE testing, forums, raffle prizes! Contact Kate Muniz KCØEGJ for details.

Dits & Bits

For Sale: Yaesu VX-1R, make offer. Icom IC-2800H w/color display: \$300. P2 300 computer, 8 GB RAM,

CD burner: make offer. 32" color TV: make offer. See Dan Scott KBØPPM kb0ppm@arrl.net or 635-0871.

For Sale: NorCal 20 QRP transceiver, Rev 1 Jan 99 kit, 14003 to 14089 kHz range, 5 W output, all in an unfinished aluminum enclosure. Contact Steve Bates NØMHQ cbates1122@aol.com or 637-0884.

Jess Miley

KØTAA

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